

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000 IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PBOR, SO, ET, UNSC

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY REQUESTS SETTLEMENT CONCEPT CLARIFICATIONS

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DOUBTS DEFINITIVE COMMITMENT ON WITHDRAWAL

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL MOHAMED SHARIF CALLED ME TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY EARLY THIS MORNING FEB 18 BEFORE EMBASSY RECEIVED THE FINAL INSTRUCTION (STATE 42000) FOR ME TO CALL UPON PRESIDENT SIAD. THE LATTER DOCUMENT ARRIVED JUST IN TIME FOR ME TO PERUSE IT BRIEFLY BEFORE DEPARTING FOR THE PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED MEETING.

2. SHARIF REFERRED TO MY FEBRUARY 14 MEETING (MOGADISCIO 0290) WITH PRESIDENT SIAD WHEN I REVIEWED THE POINTS FOR A SETTLEMENT IN THE OGADEN AS SET FORTH IN STATE P37063. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SAID THE MINISTRY HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE PRESIDENT TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF SEVERAL OF THE POINTS I HAD MADE TO THE PRESIDENT.

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SHARIF THEN POSED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

A. HAVE THE POINTS OF SETTLEMENT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE SOVIETS IN MOSCOW OR WASHINGTON, AND IF SO, HAS THE USG ANY INDICATION OF SOVIET THINKING?

B. LIKEWISE, HAVE THE POINTS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND WITH WHAT RESULT?

C. ARE THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS AGREED ON THESE POINTS, AND DO THE POINTS REPRESENT THE LATEST THINKING ON THE CONCEPT OF A SETTLEMENT.

D. ARE THE FIVE POWERS AGREED IN PRINCIPAL ON THE SPEED THEY DEEM IT NECESSARY TO MOVE IN THE UNSC? IN THIS REGARD, WHAT ARE THE FIVE'S VIEW OF THE GARBA MISSION?

E. IS THE USG AWARE THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE A CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE GSDR'S OBJECTIVE OF SELF DETERMINATION AS DEFINED IN THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND THE POINT IN THE SETTLEMENT CONCEPT THAT THE OGADEN REMAIN UNDER ETHIOPIAN SOVEREIGNTY?

F. WHAT IS THE INTENT OF CITING THE OGADENI SOMALIS IN THE CONCEPT WHEN THE GSDR HAS NEVER USED A TRIBAL DESIGNATION, BUT SOUGHT SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE WSLF AND SALF?

H. WHEN MAY THE GSDR EXPECT A RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE DEFINITION OF SOMALI FORCES AND WSLF AND SALF FORCES WHICH WERE RAISED ON FEBRUARY 13 PURSUANT TO SECRETARY VANCE'S PRESS CONFERENCE?

3. I DID NOT ATTEMPT TO RESPOND TO ALL OF SHERIF'S QUESTIONS, BUT DID POINT OUT THAT THE WESTERN POWERS ARE GENERALLY AGREED ON THE CONCEPT OF A SETTLEMENT. I ALSO SAID THERE MIGHT BE VARIATIONS IN EMPHASIS, OBSERVING THAT I WAS AWARE THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE HAD ASKED PRESIDENT SIAD TO MAKE A PUBLIC DECLARATION OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW SOMALI FORCES

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FROM THE OGADEN. I ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE GARBA EFFORTS UNDER THE OAU.

4. I THEN TURNED TO THE SUBJECT OF A SOMALI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OGADEN, AND ASKED FOR THE MINISTRY'S APPRECIATION. SHARIF, SECONDED BY DIRECTOR FATUMA ISAK BIHI, POINTED OUT THAT THE MINISTRY IF PREPARING RECOMMENDATION FOR PRESIDENT SIAD, AND THAT HE, SHARIF, COULD NOT GO FURTHER THAN THE PRESIDENT WENT IN HIS RESPONSE TO ME ON THE 14TH. SHARIF AND FUTUMA BOTH CITED AGAIN PRESIDENT SIAD'S WILLINGNESS TO MEET THE ETHIOPIANS AND REFERRED TO A POSSIBLE MEETING IN LAGOS. BOTH SOMALI DIPLOMATS SAID THEY PREFERRED AN AFRICAN SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, BUT OBSERVED THAT SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIONS HAD OBVIOUSLY PROPELLED THE MATTER INTO OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA. I MENTIONED MY INSTRUCTIONS TO TAKE UP THE MATTER OF SOMALI WITHDRAWAL WITH THE PRESIDENT. SHARIF SPECULATED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO REPLY.

7. IN A SHORT MEETING WITH MY FRENCH COLLEAGUE, AMBASSADOR CLAUDE MANTEL, THIS MORNING HE TOLD ME THAT SIAD WAS UNWILLING TO SAY ANY MORE THAN HE WOULD STUDY THE MATTER

WHEN MANTEL PRESSED FOR A PUBLIC DECLARATION OF SOMALI
WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OGADEN.

8. I AM SEEKING A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SIAD AND BELIEVE
HE WILL SEE ME LATER TODAY. IF I HAD TO MAKE AN ESTIMATE
OF HIS POSITION ON THE BASIS OF WHAT I KNOW NOW I WOULD
PREDICT HE WILL HEDGE ON THE QUESTION OF SOMALI WITHDRAWAL.
SIAD DOES NOT LIKE TO MAKE COMMITMENTS WITHOUT BEING CERTAIN
OF WHAT HE MAY EXPECT IN RETURN. I FULLY REALIZE SOME OF
THE QUESTION PUT BY SHARIF THIS MORNING MAY BE UNANSWERABLE,
BUT SO LONG AS WE ARE PRESSING THE SOMALIS FOR WHAT AMOUNTS
TO A MAJOR CONCESSION, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO
RESPOND TO THE MORE SERIOUS BIDS FOR INFORMATION WHILE PASS-
ING OVER THE CONTENTIOUS POINTS. I THINK IT WOULD BE
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HELPFUL, FOR EXAMPLE, IF WE COULD GIVE THEM A RATHER CANDID
REPORT ON THE AARON MISSION WHICH DID NOT COME UP THIS
MORNING, ALTHOUGH I SENT THE DCM TO THE MINISTRY ON THE
15TH TO INFORM THE GSAR OF THE TRIP.

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